

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 ARA-10 AID-05 /112 W

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R 201944Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8872

UNCLAS OTTAWA 683

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CA

SUBJ: EDITORIAL CONCERN OVER ANGOLA AND AFTERMATH

1. TONE OF MEDIA ATTENTION TO ANGOLA ISSUE APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED IN PAST WEEK. EARLIER TREATMENT WAS LARGELY FACTUAL REPORTING OF FIGHTING WITH LITTLE VALUE JUDGMENT. WITH FNLA AND UNITA CRUMBLING APPARENTLY COMPLETE, EMPHASIS HAS NOW STARTED TO SWITCH TO SOME EDITORIALIZING. TORONTO STAR FEB 18 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "COMMUNIST VICTORY MAY THREATEN AFRICA." IT SUGGESTS THAT APPARENT MPLA VICTORY LIKELY NOT TO SIGNAL END OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA SINCE, "SOVIET APPETITE CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN WHETTED BY THE EASY -- AND INEXPENSIVE -- TRIUMPH." STAR ALSO DUBIOUS ABOUT CHANCES OF CUBAN PULL-OUT AND ASSERTS THAT, "IT WILL BE SURPRISING INDEED IF THIS MARXIST REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (THE MPLA) FAILS TO EXPLOIT ITS NEIGHBORS' WEAKNESSES." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH PREDICTION THAT, "THE MPLA'S VICTORY, THUS, IS NOT LIKELY TO BRING PEACE AND CONTENTMENT TO SOUTH-WEST AFRICA. FAR MORE LIKELY, IT WILL BRING MORE CARNAGE -- IN THE GUISE OF AN IDEALOGICAL, ANTI-IMPERIALIST CRUSADE."

2. FEB 17 OTTAWA JOURNAL EDITORIAL TAKES ROUNDHOUSE SWING AT TRUDEAU AND IVAN HEAD, HIS "PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS" FOR SUGGESTING THAT CUBAN TROOPS  
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MIGHT NOT REMAIN IN ANGOLA. FYI: REFERENCE WAS TO HEAD

STATEMENT TO CBC REPORTER IN LONDON THAT HE HAD NO HARD  
EVIDENCE THAT CUBANS WOULD REMAIN. END FYI. SETTING  
SARCASTIC TONE FOR THE EDITORIAL, THE LEAD SENTENCE NOTES  
THAT "ZAMBIA WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR THE NEWS, SO WILL ZAIRE  
AND SOUTH AFRICA".  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EDITORIAL CONCERN OVER ANGOLA AND AFTERMATH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AO, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006